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Letter dated 14 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the signing of the framework agreement in Skopje, issued on 13 August 2001 by the President of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and of its annex issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the signing of the framework agreement in Skopje, issued on 13 August 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the signing of the framework agreement by President Trajkovski and the heads of the four main political parties in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The agreement represents a crucial stage in the ongoing political process, which has been made possible by the sense of responsibility shown by the political leaders engaged in the negotiations.

The signatories have undertaken to carry out the political reforms which are essential to enable the communities to co-exist with due regard for the territorial integrity and unity of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia within its internationally recognized borders.

The Union urges all the parties faithfully to abide by the agreement and to take all the measures needed for its speedy and full implementation. It calls on all the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to give the agreement their full support, as it is the sole guarantor of a return to peace and stability in the country, and of national reconciliation.

It is essential that everyone should observe the ceasefire scrupulously from now on. The European Union strongly condemns the acts of violence which have placed continuation of the political process in jeopardy. It appeals for calm on all sides, stressing that there is no alternative to implementation of the political agreement which has been reached.

The European Union is pleased that the High Representative, Mr. Solana, and the European Union Representative in Skopje, Mr. Léotard, have been able to act as mediators, working closely with the special envoy of the President of the United States of America, Mr. Pardew.

The European Union is ready to convene a donors' conference soon after the constitutional and legislative provisions laid down in the framework agreement have been adopted by the Parliament. It is preparing a reconstruction and rehabilitation programme which will help towards implementation of the reforms.

The European Union reiterates its determination to stand by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as it draws closer to Europe, along the route mapped out at the Zagreb Summit by the Stabilization and Association Process.